

**Island County Board of Health
Special Meeting - Tuesday, February 22, 2011
Minutes**

Members Present: Commissioners: Helen Price Johnson, Angie Homola, and Kelly Emerson; Jim Slowik, Mayor of Oak Harbor; Anne Tarrant, Whidbey General Hospital Commissioner; Captain Susan Lichtenstein, MSC, USN, Ex-Officio Member, and, Roger S. Case, MD, Executive Secretary to the Board.

Members Absent: No Members were absent.

Call to Order: Chair Helen Price Johnson called this Special Meeting of the Island County Board of Health to order at 1:15 p.m.

Additions or Changes to the Agenda: There were no changes or additions to the agenda. As this is a Special Session, only those items on the announced agenda may be acted upon at this session.

Approval of Minutes: The Chair called for the approval of the minutes of the January 18, 2011 Special Meeting. Mayor Slowik moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. WGH Commissioner Tarrant seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Input or Comments: The Board has set this time for public input or comments. Because this is a Special Session of the Board of Health, only those items on the announced agenda may be acted upon by the Board. There was no public input.

Presentation: Medical Reserve Corps (MRC): Dr. Roger Case, Health Officer, introduced John Action, retired Air Force and 20 year volunteer, who is currently under contract to AmeriCorps as a VISTA Volunteer to assist the Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator for the Island County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). Mr. Acton is currently quartered within the Island County Department of Emergency Management under the supervision of the Health Officer and is assigned duties to recruit and train personnel for the MRC and to assist emergency response personnel in protecting the lives and property in Island County residents in the event of a local or regional emergency requiring such assistance.

The Medical Reserve Corps volunteers are community-based and function as a way to locally organize and utilize volunteers who want to donate their time and expertise to prepare for and respond to emergencies and promote healthy living throughout the year. MRC volunteers supplement existing emergency and public health resources. MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, and epidemiologists. Many community members—interpreters, chaplains, office workers, legal advisors, and others—can fill key support positions. The MRC from both Whidbey and Camano Islands enjoys approximately 30 volunteers, with the majority retired from or still active in the medical community.

Mr. Action advised that his job is to recruit and help train volunteers and, as a liaison for MRC, to promote a working relationship between these volunteer organizations who all work with the County's Department of Emergency Management.

Mr. Acton's long background in emergency communications aids him in working with Island County volunteer groups to be sure they are supported by communications. Those groups include: the American Red Cross, Medical Reserve Corp, Neighborhood Emergency Teams, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) and Military Affiliate radio System (MARS). Mr. Acton gave a brief overview of each of these organizations.

Contracts:

Keith Higman presented the following contract for consideration:

1. Department of Health – Consolidated Contract
Contract No. C14949, Amendment No. 28
Contract Amount: \$ 3,850,219
Amendment Amount: \$ 24,825

Commissioner Homola moved that the contract be approved for the Chair's signature as presented. Mayor Slowik seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Legislative Update: Keith Higman, Health Services Director, reminded the Board that Legislatures are always working with various bill submittal deadlines and that when introduced, are reviewed and can be assigned to a committee which possibly acts, doesn't act, or transfers that bill to another committee. In order for a bill to be viable in this session, it would have to be under way in this process by March 7th.

2nd HB 1086 – Revised Omnibus Operating Budget addresses reduced State revenue forecasts for the remainder of the current biennium ending 6/30/2011. DOH's recommendations to the Governor were implemented in advance of this action to assure that the full anticipated cost savings were realized. This bill does not address the entire shortfall.

HB 1015 – Companion SB 5005 – Requires parents who wish to exempt a child from immunization(s) to furnish a certificate from a licensed physician or other health care practitioner, such as a naturopath, or physicians assistant that includes a statement that the health care practitioner has provided the parent or guardian with information about the benefits and risks of immunization. This bill is moving through committees.

HB 1370 – Companion SB 5234 - Creating a statewide program for the collection, transportation, and disposal of unwanted medicines, is dead in House committee but has passed through to committee on the Senate side. The Board of County Commissioners sent a letter in support of this bill.

Mr. Higman said that he had a draft resolution of BOH support for this bill prepared but that staff did not have it prepared in time to place it on this meeting's agenda or for the Board of Health's review prior to this Special meeting. Due to the fact that this is a Special Meeting, the Board cannot take action on the Resolution today. A discussion followed on the merits of the take back program. Mayor Slowik commented on the potential for drugs released into the City of Oak Harbor's sewer system and degrading water quality upon discharge. He discussed how expensive it is for sewer processing systems to effectively filter these drugs. Mr. Higman suggested that staff can bring the draft Resolution to the Board of Health Work Session on March 2nd. That is a regularly scheduled meeting and, with a Board of Health quorum, the Resolution can be considered and the Chair can sign on behalf of the Board. Commissioner Homola, Mayor Slowik and WGH Commissioner Tarrant indicated they supported the Chair signing the Resolution on the Board of Health's behalf. Commissioner Emerson does not support the Resolution.

Mr. Higman went on to quickly note that there was a bill introduced regulating synthetic cannabinoids but it has not moved out of committee. Captain Lichtenstein had alerted the Board about these drugs at a prior BOH meeting. He went on to mention HB 1637 which would remove authority from local health jurisdictions to require septic inspections more frequently than 3 years and SB 5016 prohibiting smoking in vehicles containing children. Neither appears to be moving along.

Health Department Report: Keith Higman, Health Services Director, discussed Public Health's notifiable conditions requirement and commented on Island County Public Health's notifiable conditions report for February 2011 which includes a year's statistics. He noted that some conditions are only statistical reports and some require investigative follow-up and may also include partner notifications. He noted that the Island County Sheriff and the Oak Harbor and Coupeville Police Departments will be holding another drug take back opportunity, sponsored by the DEA, and to be held on Saturday, April 30. Mr. Higman went on to discuss the high cost to the Health Department to do a communicable disease response & investigation for pertussis cases and that Island County Public Health responded to 91 cases in 2010. Omaha, Nebraska (Douglas County) reported to the CDC that they computed the cost of responding to 26 cases of pertussis in 2008 as \$52,131.

Mr. Higman told the Board that future federal funding is uncertain but reminded them that the CDC has identified "7 Winnable Battles" and that federal funding will probably be based on these program goals. Those are: 1) Food Safety, 2) Healthcare-associated Infections, 3) HIV, 4) Motor Vehicle Injuries, 5) Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity, 6) Teen Pregnancy, and 7) Tobacco Use & Exposure.

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Price Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m. The next Board of Health will be a Regular Meeting to be held on March 21, 2011.

Submitted: _____
Roger S. Case, MD
Executive Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved this 21st day of March 2011
ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Helen Price Johnson, Board Chair